

## STA

2. A number of chimneys or funnels standing together.  
A maſon making a *ſtack* of chimneys, the foundation of the houſe ſunk. *Wiſeman's Surgery.*  
To *ſtack*. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To pile up regularly in ricks.  
So likewise a hovel will ſerve for a room,  
To *ſtack* on the peace. *Tuſſer.*  
The prices of *ſtacking* up of wood I ſhall give you. *Mort.*  
STACTE. *n. f.* An aromattick; the gum that diſtills from the tree which produces myrrh.  
Take ſweet ſpices, *ſtaſſe*, and galbanum. *Ex. xxx. 34.*  
STADLE. *n. f.* [ſtabel, Saxon; a foundation.]  
1. Any thing which ſerves for ſupport to another.  
2. A ſtaff; a crutch.  
He cometh on, his weak ſteps governing  
And aged limbs on cypreſs *ſtadle* ſhout,  
And with an ivy twine his waſt is girt about. *Fa. Queen.*  
3. A tree ſuffered to grow for coarſe and common uſes, as poſts or rails. Of this meaning I am doubtful.  
Leave growing for *ſtaddles* the likeliſt and beſt,  
Though ſeller and buyer diſpatched the reſt. *Tuſſer.*  
Coppice-woods, if you leave in them *ſtaddles* too thick, will run to buſhes and briars, and have little clean underwood. *Bac.*  
To *STADLE*. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To furniſh with ſtadles.  
Fiſt ſee it well fenced, ere hewers begin;  
Then ſee it well *ſtadled* without and within. *Tuſſer.*  
STADTHOLDER. *n. f.* [*ſtadt and bouden*, Dutch.] The chief magiſtrate of the United Provinces.  
STAFF. *n. f.* plur. *ſtaves*. [ſtaep, Saxon; *ſtaff*, Daniſh; *ſtaf*, Dutch.]  
1. A ſtick with which a man ſupports himſelf in walking.  
It much would pleaſe him,  
That of his fortunes you would make a *ſtaff*  
To lean upon. *Shakeſp. Ant. and Cleopatra.*  
Grant me and my people the benefit of thy chaſtiſements,  
that thy rod as well as thy *ſtaff* may comfort us. *K. Charles.*  
Is it probable that he, who had met whole armies in battle,  
ſhould now throw away his *ſtaff*, out of fear of a dog. *Breome.*  
2. A prop; a ſupport.  
Hope is a lover's *ſtaff*; walk hence with that,  
And manage it againſt deſpairing thoughts. *Shakeſpeare.*  
The boy was the very *ſtaff* of my age, my very prop. *Shak.*  
3. A ſtick uſed as a weapon; a club; the handle of an edged or pointed weapon. A *club* properly includes the notion of weight, and the *ſtaff* of length.  
I cannot ſtrike at wretched kernes, whoſe arms  
Are hid to bear their *ſtaves*. *Shakeſp. Macbeth.*  
He that bought the ſkin ran greater riſque than t'other that  
ſold it, and had the worſe end of the *ſtaff*. *L'Eſtrange.*  
With forks and *ſtaves* the felon they purſue. *Dryden.*  
4. Any long piece of wood.  
He forthwith from the glitt'ring *ſtaff* unfurld  
Th' imperial enſign. *Milton.*  
To his ſingle eye, that in his forehead glar'd  
Like a full moon, or a broad burniſh'd ſhield,  
A fork'd *ſtaff* we dext'routly apply'd,  
Which, in the ſpacious ſocket turning round,  
Scoop'd out the big round gelly from its orb. *Addiſon.*  
5. An enſign of an office; a badge of authority.  
Methought this *ſtaff*, mine office-badg in court,  
Was broke in twain. *Shakeſp. Henry VI.*  
All his officers brake their *ſtaves*; but at their return new  
*ſtaves* were delivered unto them. *Hayward on Edward VI.*  
6. [*ſtaf*, Iſlandick.] A fanza; a ſeries of verſes regularly diſpoſed, ſo as that, when the fanza is concluded, the ſame order begins again.  
Cowley found out that no kind of *ſtaff* is proper for an heroic poem, as being all too lyrical; yet though he wrote in couplets, where rhyme is freer from constraint, he affects half verſes. *Dryden.*  
STAFFISH. *adj.* [from *ſtaff*.] Stiff; harſh. Obſolete.  
A wit in youth not over dull, heavy, knotty, and lumpiſh,  
but hard, tough, and though ſomewhat *ſtaffiſh*, both for learning and whole courſe of living, proveth always beſt. *Aſcham.*  
STAFFTREE. *n. f.* A fort of ever green privet.  
STAG. *n. f.* [Of this word I find no derivation.] The male red deer; the male of the hind.  
To the place a poor ſequeſtred *ſtag*,  
That from the hunter's aim had ta'en a hurt,  
Did come to languish. *Shakeſp. As you like it.*  
The ſwift *ſtag* from under ground  
Bore up his branching head. *Milton.*  
Th' inhabitants of ſeas and ſkies ſhall change,  
And fiſh on ſhore, and *ſtags* in air ſhall range. *Dryden.*  
The *ſtag*  
Hears his own feet, and thinks they found like more,  
And fears his hind legs will o'erake his fore. *Pope.*  
STAGE. *n. f.* [*efage*, French.]  
1. A floor raiſed to view on which any ſhow is exhibited.  
2. The theatre; the place of ſcenick entertainments.  
And much good do't you then,  
Brave pluſh and velvet men:

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- Can feed on ort; and, ſafe in your *ſtage* clothes,  
Dare quit, upon your oaths,  
The ſtagers and the *ſtage* wrights too. *Ben. Jonſon.*  
Thoſe two Mytilene brethren, baſely born, crept out as a  
ſmall galliot unto the majesty of great kings. Herein admire  
the wonderful changes and chances of theſe worldly things,  
now up, now down, as if the life of man were not of much  
more certainty than a *ſtage* play. *Kneller's Hiſt. of the Turks.*  
I maintain, againſt the enemies of the *ſtage*, that patterns  
of piety, decently repreſented, may ſecond the precepts. *Dryd.*  
One Livius Andronicus was the firſt *ſtage* player in Rome.  
Knights, ſquires, and ſteeds muſt enter on the *ſtage*. *Pope.*  
Among ſlaves, who exerciſed polite arts, none ſold ſo dear  
as *ſtage* players or actors. *Arbutnot on Coins.*  
3. Any place where any thing is publickly tranſacted or performed.  
When we are born, we cry that we are come  
To this great *ſtage* of fools. *Shakeſp. King Lear.*  
4. A place in which reſt is taken on a journey; as much of a  
journey as is performed without intermiſſion. [*ſtatio*, Latin.]  
I ſhall put you in mind where it was you promiſed to ſet out,  
or begin your firſt *ſtage*; and beſeech you to go before me my  
guide. *Hammond's Praef. Catech.*  
Our next *ſtage* brought us to the mouth of the Tiber. *Add.*  
From thence compell'd by craft and age,  
She makes the head her laſt *ſtage*. *Prior.*  
By opening a paſſage from Muſcovy to China, and marking  
the ſeveral *ſtages*, it was a journey of ſo many days. *Behr.*  
5. A ſingle ſtep of gradual proceſs.  
The changes and viciffitude in wars are many; but chiefly  
in the ſeats or *ſtages* of the war, the weapons, and the manner  
of the conduct. *Bacon's Eſſay.*  
We muſt not expect that our journey through the ſeveral  
*ſtages* of this life ſhould be all ſmooth and even. *Altenbury.*  
To prepare the ſoul to be a fit inhabitant of that holy place  
to which we aſpire, is to be brought to perfection by gradual  
advances through ſeveral hard and laborious *ſtages* of diſcipline.  
The firſt *ſtage* of healing, or the diſcharge of matter, is by  
furgions called digeſtion. *Sharp's Surgery.*  
To *STAGE*. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To exhibit publickly.  
Out of uſe.  
I love the people;  
But do not like to *ſtage* me to their eyes;  
Though it do well, I do not like well  
Their loud applauſe. *Shakeſp. Measure for Measure.*  
The quick comedians  
Extemp'rally will *ſtage* us, and preſent  
Our Alexandrian revels. *Shakeſp. Ant. and Cleopatra.*  
STAGECOACH. *n. f.* [*ſtage and coach*.] A coach that keeps its  
ſtages; a coach that paſſes and repaſſes on certain days for the  
accommodation of paſſengers.  
The ſtory was told me by a prieſt, as we travelled in a  
*ſtagecoach*. *Addiſon.*  
When late their miry ſides *ſtagecoaches* ſhow,  
And their ſtiff horſes through the town move ſlow,  
Then let the prudent walker ſhoes provide. *Gey.*  
STAGEPLAY. *n. f.* [*ſtage and play*.] Theatrical entertain-  
ment.  
This rough-caſt unſhewn poetry was inſtead of *ſtageplays* for  
one hundred and twenty years. *Dryden's Juv. Dedication.*  
STAGER. *n. f.* [from *ſtage*.]  
1. A player.  
You ſafe in your *ſtage* clothes,  
Dare quit, upon your oaths,  
The *ſtagers* and the *ſtage* wrights too. *Ben. Jonſon.*  
2. One who has long acted on the ſtage of life; a practitioner;  
a perſon of cunning.  
I've heard old cunning *ſtagers*  
Say, fools for argument uſe wagers. *Hudibras.*  
One experienced *ſtager*, that had baffled twenty traps and  
tricks before, diſcovered the plot. *L'Eſtrange.*  
Some *ſtagers* of the wifer fort  
Made all theſe idle wonderments their ſport;  
But he, who heard what ev'ry fool could ſay,  
Would never fix his thought, but trim his time away. *Dryd.*  
One cries out, theſe *ſtagers*  
Come in good time to make more work for wagers. *Dryd.*  
Be by a parſon cheated!  
Had you been cunning *ſtagers*,  
You might yourſelves be treated  
By captains and by majors. *Swift.*  
STAGEVIL. *n. f.* A diſeaſe in horſes.  
STAGGARD. *n. f.* [from *ſtag*.] A four year old ſtag. *ſinſow.*  
To *STAGGER*. *v. n.* [*ſtaggeren*, Dutch.]  
1. To reel; not to ſtand or walk ſteadily.  
He began to appear ſick and giddy, and to *ſtagger*; after  
which he fell down as dead. *Boyle.*  
He ſtruck with all his might  
Full on the helmet of th' unwary knight:  
Deep was the wound; he *ſtagger'd* with the blow. *Dryden.*  
Them

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- Them revelling the Tentyrites invade,  
By giddy heads and *ſtaggering* legs betray'd:  
Strange odds! where cropp'd drunkards muſt engage  
An hungry ſoc. *Tate's Juvenal.*  
The immediate forerunners of an apoplexy are a vertigo,  
*ſtaggering*, and loſs of memory. *Arbutnot.*  
2. To faint; to begin to give way.  
The enemy *ſtaggers*: if you follow your blow, he falls at  
your feet; but if you allow him reſpite, he will recover his  
ſtrength. *Addiſon.*  
3. To heſitate; to fall into doubt; to become leſs confident or  
determined.  
A man may, if he were fearful, *ſtagger* in this attempt. *Shak.*  
He *ſtaggered* not at the promiſe of God through unbelief;  
but was ſtill in faith. *Rom. iv. 20.*  
Three means to fortify belief are experience, reaſon, and  
authority: of theſe the moſt potent is authority; for belief  
upon reaſon, or experience, will *ſtagger*. *Bacon.*  
No hereticks deſire to ſpread  
Their light opinions, like theſe Epicures;  
For ſo their *ſtaggering* thoughts are comforted;  
And other men aſſent their doubt aſſues. *Davies.*  
If thou confidently depend on the truth of this, without any  
doubting or *ſtaggering*, this will be accepted by God. *Hamm.*  
But let it inward ſink and drown my mind:  
Faith ſhall want its triumph: I begin  
To *ſtagger*; but I'll prop myſelf within. *Dryden.*  
To *STAGGER*. *v. a.*  
1. To make to *ſtagger*; to make to reel.  
That hand ſhall burn in never-quenching fire,  
That *ſtaggers* thus my perſon. *Shakeſp. Richard II.*  
2. To ſhock; to alarm; to make leſs ſteady or confident.  
The queſtion did at firſt *ſtagger* me,  
Bearing a ſtate of mighty moment in't. *Shak. Henry VIII.*  
When a prince falls in honour and juſtice, 'tis enough to  
*ſtagger* his people in their allegiance. *L'Eſtrange.*  
Whoſoever will read the ſtory of this war, will find him-  
ſelf much *ſtaggered*, and put to a kind of riddle. *Howel.*  
The ſhells being lodged with the belemnites, ſelenites, and  
other like natural ſoſils, it was enough to *ſtagger* a ſpectator,  
and make him ready to entertain a belief that theſe were to  
too. *Woodward.*  
STAGGERS. *n. f.* [from the verb.]  
1. A kind of horſe apoplexy.  
His horſe paſt cure of the fives, ſtark ſpoil'd with the *ſtag-*  
gers. *Shakeſp. Taming of the Shrew.*  
2. Madneſs; wild conduct; irregular behaviour. Out of uſe.  
I will throw thee from my care for ever  
Into the *ſtaggers*, and the careleſs lapſe  
Of youth and ignorance. *Shak. All's well that ends well.*  
STAGNANCY. *n. f.* [from *ſtagnant*.] The ſtate of being with-  
out motion or ventilation.  
STAGNANT. *adj.* [*ſtagnans*, Latin.] Motionleſs; ſtill; not  
agitated; not flowing; not running.  
What does the flood from putrefaction keep?  
Should it be *ſtagnant* in its ample feat,  
The fun would through it ſpread deſtructive heat. *Blackm.*  
'Twas owing to this hurry and action of the water that the  
ſand now was caſt into layers, and not to a regular ſettlement,  
from a water quiet and *ſtagnant*. *Woodward.*  
Immur'd and buſied in perpetual ſloth,  
That gloomy ſlumber of the *ſtagnant* ſoul. *Irene.*  
To *STAGNATE*. *v. n.* [*ſtagnare*, Latin.] To lye motion-  
leſs; to have no courſe or ſtream.  
The water which now ariſes muſt have all *ſtagnated* at the  
ſurface, and could never poſſibly have been refunded forth  
upon the earth, had not the ſtrata been thus raiſed up. *Woodw.*  
The alimnt moving through the capillary tubes *ſtagnates*,  
and unites itſelf to the veſſel through which it flows. *Arbutnot.*  
Where creeping waters ooze,  
Where marſhes *ſtagnate*. *Thomſon.*  
STAGNATION. *n. f.* [from *ſtagnate*.] Stop of courſe; ceaſa-  
tion of motion.  
As the Alps ſurround Geneva on all ſides, they form a vaſt  
baſon, where there would be a conſtant *ſtagnation* of vapours,  
did not the north wind ſcatter them from time to time. *Addiſon.*  
To what great ends ſubſervient is the wind?  
Behold, where e'er this active vapour flies,  
It drives the clouds, and agitates the ſkies:  
This from *ſtagnation* and corruption ſaves  
Th' aerial ocean's ever-rolling waves. *Blackmore's Creation.*  
STAG, participial adjective. [from *ſtag*.] Sober; grave; regu-  
lar; compoſed; not wild; not volatile.  
Put thyſelf  
Into a 'haviour of leſs fear, ere wildneſs  
Vanguish my *ſtair* ſenſes. *Shakeſpeare's Cymbeline.*  
This ſeems to our weaker view,  
O'erlaid with black *ſtair* wiſdom's hue. *Milton.*  
I ſhould not be a perſuader to them of ſtudying much in the  
ſpring, after three years that they have well laid their grounds;  
but to ride out, with prudent and *ſtair* guides, to all the quar-  
ters of the land. *Milton on Education.*

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- I am the more at eaſe in ſir Roger's family, becauſe it coſts  
little of ſober and *ſtair* perſons. *Addiſon.*  
STAIRNESS. *n. f.* [from *ſtair*.] Sobriety; gravity; regularity;  
contrariety to wildneſs.  
The boiling blood of youth, fiercely agitating the fluid air;  
hinders that ſerenity and fixed *ſtairneſs* which is neceſſary to ſo  
ſevere an intentneſs. *Glanv. Scen.*  
If ſometimes he appears too gay, yet a ſecret gracefullneſs  
of youth accompanies his writings, though the *ſtairneſs* and  
ſobriety of age be wanting. *Dryd. Preface to Ovid.*  
To *STAIR*. *v. a.* [*ſtaenie*, Welſh, from *ſt* and *taenu*.]  
Rhag Gwyar or Grawd, *Taliesyn*, an old Britiſh poet.]  
1. To blot; to ſpot; to maculate.  
Lend me a looking-glaſs;  
If that her breath will miſt or *ſtain* the ſtone,  
Why then ſhe lives. *Shakeſpeare's King Lear.*  
From the gaſh a ſtream  
His armour *ſtain'd*, ere while fo bright. *Milton.*  
Embrace again, my ſons: be foes no more;  
Nor *ſtain* your country with your children's gore. *Dryden.*  
2. To diſgrace; to ſpot with guilt or infamy.  
Of honour void, of innocence, of faith, of purity,  
Our wonted ornaments now foil'd and *ſtain'd*. *Milton.*  
STAIN. *n. f.* [from the verb.]  
1. Blot; ſpot; diſcoloration.  
Nor death itſelf can wholly waſh their *ſtains*;  
But long contracted filth ev'n in the ſoul remains:  
The reliques of inveterate vice they wear,  
And ſpots of ſin. *Dryden's En.*  
We no where meet with a more pleaſing ſnow than what  
appears in the heavens at the riſing and ſetting of the ſun,  
which is wholly made up of thoſe different *ſtains* of light that  
ſhew themſelves in clouds of a different ſituation. *Addiſon.*  
Swift trouts diverſity'd with crimſon *ſtains*,  
And pikes, the tyrants of the wat'ry plains. *Pope.*  
2. Taint of guilt or infamy.  
To ſolenn actions of royalty and juſtice their ſuitable orna-  
ments are a beauty: are they only in religion a *ſtain*? *Hobbs.*  
Our opinion, concerning the force and virtue which ſuch  
places have, is, I truſt, without any blemiſh or *ſtain* of he-  
reſy. *Hobbs.*  
Then heav'n and earth renew'd, ſhall be made pure  
To ſanctity, that ſhall receive no *ſtain*. *Milton's Par. Loſt.*  
Ulyſſes bids his friends to caſt lots; for if he had made the  
choice himſelf, they whom he had rejected might have judg'd  
it a *ſtain* upon them for want of merit. *Breome.*  
3. Cauſe of reproach; ſhame.  
Hereby I will lead her that is the praiſe, and yet the *ſtain* of  
all womankind. *Sidney.*  
STAINER. *n. f.* [from *ſtain*.] One who ſtains; one who  
blots.  
STAINLESS. *adj.* [from *ſtain*.]  
1. Free from blots or ſpots.  
The phenix wings are not ſo rare  
For faultleſs length and *ſtainleſs* hue. *Sidney.*  
2. Free from ſin or reproach.  
I cannot love him;  
Yet I ſuppoſe him virtuous, know him noble,  
Of great eſtate, of freſh and *ſtainleſs* youth. *Shakeſpeare.*  
STAIR. *n. f.* [ſtaegen, Saxon; *ſtege*, Dutch.] Steps by which  
we riſe an aſcent from the lower part of a building to the  
upper. *Stair* was anciently uſed for the whole order of ſteps;  
but *ſtair* now, if it be uſed at all, ſignifies, as in *Milton*, only  
one flight of ſteps.  
A good builder to a high tower will not make his *ſtair* up-  
right, but winding almoſt the full compaſs about, that the  
ſteepneſs be the more ſenſible. *Sidney.*  
How many cowards, whoſe hearts are all as falſe  
As *ſtairs* of ſand, wear yet upon their chins  
The beards of Hercules and frowning Mars! *Shakeſpeare.*  
Slaver with lips as common as the *ſtairs*  
That mount the Capitol. *Shakeſp.*  
I would have one only goodly room above *ſtairs*, of ſome  
forty foot high. *Bacon's Eſſays.*  
Sir James Tirrel repairing to the Tower by night, attended  
by two ſervants, ſtood at the *ſtair*-foot, and ſent theſe two  
villains to execute the murder. *Bacon.*  
There being good *ſtairs* at either end, they never went  
through each other's quarters. *Clarendon.*  
The *ſtairs* were ſuch as whereon Jacob ſaw  
Angels aſcending and deſcending. *Milton's Parad. Loſt.*  
Satan now on the lower *ſtair*,  
That ſcal'd by ſteps of gold to heav'n gate,  
Looks down with wonder at the ſudden view  
Of all this world. *Milton's Parad. Loſt.*  
Trembling he ſprings,  
As terror had increas'd his feet with wings;  
Nor ſtair for *ſtairs*; but down the depth he threw  
His body: on his back the door he drew. *Dryden.*  
STAIRCASE. *n. f.* [*ſtair and caſe*.] The part of a fabrick that  
contains the *ſtairs*.